

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EFFORTS
TO ELIMINATE THE WORST
FORMS OF CHILD LABOR IN
WEST AFRICA

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform you and our colleagues about the progress that has been made toward ending a shameful practice of child slavery. Just one year ago on June 28th, the House of Representatives voted 291–115 to set aside funding within the Food and Drug Administration to develop a labeling program for products made with cocoa. The label was intended to distinguish between cocoa products made with child slave labor and those that were not.

As you may recall, last summer we all became aware of this problem through media reports, such as those in the Knight-Ridder Newspapers, that told the stories of children being kidnapped from their home countries, such as Mali, and then sold into slavery in the Ivory Coast. The stories were horrifying. Children as young as 9 years of age are being forced to work without pay, live in squalor, and fear for their physical safety.

Last year, the House of Representatives resoundingly said "This is not acceptable." Chocolate is one of our most beloved treats, but it doesn't taste as sweet with the bitterness of child slavery in its mix.

Since that day last year much has happened. I am pleased with and proud of the enormous progress that has been made toward ending this terrible situation. First, let me congratulate the chocolate industry for so quickly deciding to tackle this problem head on. The industry joined a number of non-governmental organizations in signing an agreement, now known as the "Harkin-Engel Protocol," which set up a framework for dealing with the problem of child slavery in the cocoa fields. The protocol is a serious commitment by the stakeholders to create an historic effort to end child slavery in this industry.

This effort is not just the result of the United States Congress though. Our colleagues in the parliament of Great Britain have also been working on this issue. On May 20, 2002 the House of Commons held what we would call a special order on the specific issue of child slavery in the cocoa fields of West Africa. During the debate, the Honorable Tony Colman of Putney quoted his constituent who is an expert on the problems of child trafficking and slavery, Professor Kevin Bales, as saying "The Protocol . . . is a very good thing. It is the first time that an industry has taken social, moral and economic responsibility for their entire product chain. The Anti-Slavery movement has been seeking such an agreement for 160 years."

Throughout the past year, the world's cocoa producers and users have met and signed onto agreements that commit everyone to ending this practice. For example, on November 30, 2001 a wide array of organizations from around the globe signed a joint statement regarding their efforts toward eliminating child slave labor in the cocoa fields. The list of organizations is very impressive: the Association of the Chocolate, Biscuit, and Confectionary Industries of the European Union; the Choco-

late Manufacturers of Association of the USA; the Confectionary Manufacturers Association of Canada; the Cocoa Association of London and the Federation for Cocoa Commerce; the Cocoa Merchants Association of America; the European Cocoa Association; the International Office of Cocoa, Chocolate, and Confectionary; the World Cocoa Foundation; the Child Labor Coalition; Free The Slaves; the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers Associations; the National Consumers League; and the Government of the Ivory Coast. The joint statement recognized the "urgent need to identify and eliminate child labour in violation of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 182 with respect to the growing and processing of cocoa beans and their derivative products."

Furthermore, in January of this year the Government of the Ivory Coast ratified two important international labor agreements governing child labor—Conventions 138 and 182 of the International Labor Organization. By becoming signatories to these conventions, the Government of the Ivory Coast took a huge step forward toward implementing responsible labor standards for children within its own borders. In part, because of this step, the Bush Administration in May 2002 granted the Ivory Coast eligibility status under the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

Finally, last week the efforts of dozens of organizations and hundreds of people culminated in the creation of an international foundation that will "oversee and sustain efforts to eliminate abusive child labor practices in the growing of cocoa." In future years, the foundation, with assistance from the governments of the world, will put in place "credible standards of public certification that cocoa beans have been grown without any of the worst forms of child labor."

These are not easy problems to remedy. Many of these children do not speak French, the main language of the Ivory Coast. Many parents willingly let them go, believing their children will be learning a trade as part of an apprenticeship. Many children are orphaned. How we deal with these children on an individual basis will be difficult. Repatriating the children, reunifying the families, finding alternatives for orphaned and abandoned children all must happen. It will take hard work. It will not happen overnight. But we must try and we must succeed.

In declaring our own independence and throwing off the shackles of tyranny, our forefathers wrote "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Never once in the history of our great nation have we ever believed that these rights were reserved to the people of the United States. In fact at the core of our beliefs is that all people everywhere have the unalienable right to liberty. The problem of child slavery in West Africa is as much the responsibility of the governments there as it is our own.

Today, I am pleased and proud to report that we here in Congress are a part of the movement to put an end to one of the most egregious ills in the world today—child slavery.

TRIBUTE TO MR. KONRAD K.
DANNENBERG

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great member of the North Alabama community, Mr. Konrad K. Dannenberg. On August 6th, Mr. Dannenberg will celebrate his 90th birthday. Throughout his ninety years, Mr. Dannenberg has been a leader in our nation's space program, retiring from Marshall Space Flight Center in 1973 as Deputy Director of Program Development's Mission and Payload Planning Office. Today, Mount Hope Elementary School in Decatur, Alabama is honoring Mr. Dannenberg for his service to their school, the North Alabama community, and the nation.

Konrad Dannenberg, born in Weissenfels, Germany, worked with Wernher von Braun in Peenemunde, Germany and came to the United States after World War II under "Project Paperclip." He later helped develop and produce the Redstone and Jupiter missile systems for the Army Ballistic Missile Agency at Redstone Arsenal. In 1960, he joined NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center as Deputy Manager of the Saturn program, where he received the NASA Exceptional Service Medal.

Mr. Dannenberg is a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and was past president of the Alabama/Mississippi Chapter. He was the recipient of the 1960 DURAND Lectureship and the 1995 Hermann Oberth Award. Additionally, the NASA Alumni League, the Hermann Oberth Society of Germany, and the L-5 Society (now the National Space Society) have the benefit of Mr. Dannenberg's membership. In 1992, the Alabama Space and Rocket Center created a scholarship in his name to allow one student to attend a Space Academy session.

Mr. Speaker, as you can tell, during Mr. Dannenberg's career, he was a valuable player in the advancement of our space program and was appreciated by co-workers and important organizations throughout the industry. Following his retirement, he has remained a major influence in the North Alabama community and still serves as a consultant for the Alabama Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville. I want to congratulate Mr. Konrad Dannenberg on his 90th birthday and thank him for the important contributions he has made to our community in North Alabama and the entire United States.

**H.R. 4623—CHILD OBSCENITY AND
PORNOGRAPHY PREVENTION ACT**

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the bill I cosponsored, H.R. 4623, the Child Obscenity and Pornography Prevention Act. This bill marks a truly important step forward in protecting our Nation's kids from the scourge of pedophiles and child exploitation.